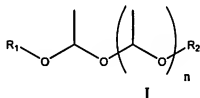


## II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An acetaldehyde precursor comprising formula I



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are selected such that both are  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ , or both are linear, branched or cyclic alkyl, aryl, alcohol or sugar residues, and  $n = [1]-10$ , with the proviso that, when  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are selected such that both are  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $n = [1, 2, 3]$  or 4.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) An acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1 wherein  $n$  is ~~1, 2 or~~ 3 and  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are both  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ .

Claim 3. (Original) An acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1 wherein  $n$  is 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 and the linear, branched or cyclic alkyl, aryl, alcohol or sugar residues are water-soluble.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) A method comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1 as a flavoring or fragrance agent.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a flavoring or fragrance formulation comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1 as a component of the flavoring or fragrance formulation.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) A flavor or a fragrance formulation comprising an

acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1.

- Claim 7. (Previously presented) A consumable product comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 1.
- Claim 8. (Currently amended) The flavor or fragrance composition according to claim 6 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which  $n=1$ ,  $n=2$  or  $n=3$ , and  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  both  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ .
- Claim 9. (Currently amended) The consumable product according to claim 7 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which  $n=1$ ,  $n=2$  or  $n=3$ , and  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  both  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ .
- Claim 10. (Previously presented) A method comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2 as a flavoring or fragrance agent.
- Claim 11. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a flavoring or fragrance formulation comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2 as a component of the flavoring or fragrance formulation.
- Claim 12. (Previously presented) A flavor or a fragrance formulation comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2.
- Claim 13. (Currently amended) The flavor or fragrance composition according to claim 12 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which  $n=1$ ,  $n=2$  or  $n=3$ , and  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  both  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ .
- Claim 14. (Previously presented) A consumable product comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 2.

- Claim 15. (Currently amended) The consumable product according to claim 14 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which ~~n=1, n=2 or~~ n=3, and R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> both -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>.
- Claim 16. (Previously presented) A method comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3 as a flavoring or fragrance agent.
- Claim 17. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a flavoring or fragrance formulation comprising utilizing an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3 as a component of the flavoring or fragrance formulation.
- Claim 18. (Previously presented) A flavor or a fragrance formulation comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3.
- Claim 19. (Currently amended) The flavor or fragrance composition according to claim 18 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which ~~n=1, n=2 or~~ n=3, and R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> both -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>.
- Claim 20. (Previously presented) A consumable product comprising an acetaldehyde precursor according to claim 3.
- Claim 21. (Currently amended) The consumable product according to claim 20 wherein the acetaldehyde precursor is one in which ~~n=1, n=2 or~~ n=3, and R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> both -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>.